Implementation of ERC's recommendations

1474. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Asian Age, dated the 9th May, 2002 captioned "ERC suggestions gather dust, yet to be implemented".

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has since decided to implement the ERC's recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission have been acted up after examination by the Department of Tourism. The details are given below:—

Sl. No.	Recommendation	Responses
1.	There is need for government to continue to: (a) Play an active role in promoting tourism; (b) Support establishment of training facilities in this sector and (c) Provide support for creation of basic infrastructure development at the large number of tourist centres.	Department of Torurism (DoT) agrees with Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC). This role for government is envisaged in the new Tourism Policy.
2.	The task of making large investments for creation of facilities at established centres should be left to the private sector. Following this criterion, the proposal for disinvestment of ITDC should be expedited.	The disinvestment process is under way and so far 18th ITDC Hotel properties have been disinvested.
3.	If the need for setting up new hotel management or food craft institutes arises, efforts should be taken to promote the setting up of such facilities in the private sector with government giving some assistance for meeting a part of the capital cost.	Efforts would be made to promote new Institute of Hotel Managements & Food Craft Institutes in the private sector. However, areas where private sector does not come forward Government will have to continue the policy of providing funds for capital infrastructure in respect of Institute of Hotel Management.
4.	There is presently a proposal for setting up of an Advance Institute of Hotel Management and Institute of Culinary Arts. Attempts should be taken for promoting the establishment of this centre in the private sector.	DoT would endavour to establish the Institute of Culinary Sciences in private-public partnership.

5. Action should be taken to diversify the activities of the Indian Institute of Torusim and travel Management at Gwalior into areas for which there is greater demand and also to invite private parties to participate in the management as well as financing of this institute. If these efforts do not bear fruit, say in a year's time, then this institute would have to be closed down.	Action has been initiated to diversify the activities of IITTM and make it commercially self-viale.
6. Likewise induction of private sector participation in the management as well as financing of the National Institute of Water Sports, Goa should be explored.	The National Institute of Water Sports is the first institute of its kind in the country, and is a pioneering effort. Being in its infancy, it is not economically viable. Hence Private Sector participation may not be possible at this stage.
7. Action on the question of transferring the Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering to Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering or to IBP or the State Governments would need to be expedited.	All attempts wil be made to transfer the Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering to Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering or to IBP or to State Govt.
8. There is a case of stepping up the allocations under the scheme for promoting tourist infrastructure. When ITDC is disinvested the possibility of a part of the net proceeds being utilized for this purpose could be explored.	The Planning Commission has indicated a plan allocation of Rs. 2900/- crores for the 10th plan.

Sl. No.	Recommendation	Responses
9.	This being a very small department there is not need for a pst of a Secretary as well as that of ex-officio Additional Secretary and DG, Tourism. These posts should be combined with the Secretary functioning as the DG, Tourism as well. The other post should be abolished.	The post of DG (Tourism) is being abolished and combined with the post of Secretary.
10.	SIU had, on the basis of a study conducted in 1997, found that 28 posts out of the total staff strength of 242 were surplus in the office of DG, Tourism. These posts should be abolished straightway.	30 posts have been abolished by the Deptt. of Tourism.
11.	The 16 field offices, other than the regional offices, of the DG, Tourism should also be closed immediately.	Offices are being restructed. In view of enhanced outlay and new schemes, field offices will be required to play a more active role. Hence these offices need to be continued.
12.	The functioning of the 18 foreign offices of the DOT need to be quickly reviewed and only those offices, which are located in those countries with a large tourism potential, should be retained. The remaining should be closed down, leaving it to the industry to set up offices at these and other places. if they wish to.	Functioning of foreign offices has been reviewed 5 field offices abroad have been closed. However such field offices are essential for the promotion of Tourism and their locations are peripaetic in nature. The location of such offices are considered only after their need is adequately justified.